

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7244

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 003

YAOUNDE FOR RDO KOEHRING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, GB

SUBJ: GOG FUNDING OF SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL

REF: LIBREVILLE 2100

1. FURTHER DETAILS ON GOG PLANS FOR FUTURE OF SCHWEITZER HOSPITAL EMERGED DURING MID-DECEMBER VISIT TO LAMBARENE BY MIN STATE RAWIRI, REPORT ON WHICH JUST RECEIVED BY EMBASSY FROM HOSPITAL DIRECTOR MAX CAULET.

2. WHILE IN LAMBARENE, RAWIRI AND HIS COLLEAGUES MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WISH SCHWEITZER FOUNDATION TO REMAIN GOVERNING BODY FOR HOSPITAL AND TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND ITS NATIONAL COMPONENT BODIES CONTINUE FUND-RAISING AND RECRUITING EFFORTS ON HOSPITAL'S BEHALF. FOR 1976, RAWIRI PROMISED THAT GOG WOULD MEET GAP OF 56 MILLION CFA (APPROXIMATELY US\$24,911) IN HOSPITAL'S OPERATING BUDGET, PRESUMABLY (THOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY SO STATED) FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

3. NEXT STEP, GOG REPS DISCLOSED, WILL BE MEETING IN LIBREVILLE DURING LAST WEEK IN JANUARY TO DISCUSS FUTURE

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ROLE OF HOSPITAL. REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL

ASSOCIATION ARE TO BE INVITED ALONG WITH BOARD OF LOCAL
FOUNDATION.

4. COMMENT: AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL, SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR MODERNIZATION OF HOSPITAL NOT YET DECIDED. HOWEVER,
GOG CLEARLY HOPES MAJOR PORTION OF CAPITAL COSTS CAN BE
MET FROM FOREIGN DONATIONS, SO AID GRANT WILL STILL FIGURE
AS IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN PLANNING FOR NEW FACILITIES. STEIGMAN

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